

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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PA-02 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15 /052 W
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R 230800Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
SECSTATE WASHDC 6831

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USIA FOR IEA, IOP/R

CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR

SECSTATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS

1. ATMOSPHERICS:

- EVENTS OVER WEEK DOMINATED BY ACTIVITIES
LEADING TO ELECTION OF PREMIER CHIANG AND GOVERNOR HSIEH
AS PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT RESPECTIVELY. PAPER
PLAYED UP CONGRATULATIONS FROM PRESIDENT CARTER,
AMBASSADOR UNGER AND U.S. CONGRESSMEN. ATTENTION NOW
TURNED TO CHIANG'S REPLACEMENT AS PREMIER. IN THIS RESPECT,
LEADING DAILY UNITED DAILY NEWS (LIEN HO PAO; 600,000)
CARRIED ARTICLE BY PROFESSOR KAO SHI-CHUN OF WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY CHALLENGING MEDIA TO DISCUSS OPENLY BEST CHOICE
FOR PREMIER. HAILING PREMIER CHIANG'S PREVIOUS REMARKS
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TO LEGISLATIVE YUAN THAT CITIZENS SHOULD HAVE COURAGE TO
CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE MAGNANIMOUS
IN ACCEPTANCE OF CRITICISM, KAO SAID TIME HAD COME FOR
FREE PRESS TO DISCUSS BEST CHOICES FOR NEW CABINET.

- PRESS PLAYED UP WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF CARTER'S WAKE
FOREST SPEECH. TOP DAILIES UNITED DAILY NEWS AND CHINA

TIMES (CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO; 530,000) CARRIED WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS OF SPEECH, EMPHASIZING REFERENCE TO U.S. HISTORICAL RESPONSIBILITIES TO PROMOTE CAUSE OF PEACE IN EAST ASIA. IN SOLE EDITORIAL TO DATE, UNITED DAILY NEWS THOUGHT "STRONGER U.S. STANCE" REFLECTED BY SPEECH AND UNFRIENDLY RUSSIAN REACTION MEANT BOTH COUNTRIES "HAVE ENTERED NEW ROUND OF COLD WAR."

- U.S. MILITARY AID TO ROC WAS SUBJECT OF REPORT BY UNITED DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, SHIH KE-MIN. IN FRONTPAGE REPORT, SHIH QUOTED "STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL" TO EFFECT THAT FACT ROC RECEIVING NO FMS CREDITS AFTER FY79 DUE TO ROC ECONOMIC STRENGTH AND MILESTONE OF WHICH ROC CAN BE PROUD. OFFICIAL ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID NO FURTHER U.S. FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ROC MILITARY TRAINING WOULD BE GIVEN AFTER FY79. HOWEVER, OFFICIAL NOTED HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS ON ROC WOULD CONTINUE AS REPORT REQUIRED ON COUNTRIES PURCHASING MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM U.S.

- ON QUESTION OF U.S. FIGHTER SALES, CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (CHUNG YANG JIH PAO; 400,000) AND CHINA TIMES REPORTED VIA WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENTS THAT ROC MAY GET F-16'S. WHETHER ROC WILL GET F-4E'S IS "STILL UNDER HOT DEBATE," CHINA TIMES REPORTED.

- ANOTHER CHINA TIMES REPORT FROM WASHINGTON QUOTED DOS/EA UNCLASSIFIED

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SPOKESMAN CANNON AS SAYING HWA KUO-FENG'S RECENT THREAT TO LIBERATE TAIWAN CONSIDERED "CLICHE AND OF NO SIGNIFICANCE." CANNON ALSO REPORTEDLY SAID USG DOES NOT THINK REFERENCE TO LIBERATION OF TAIWAN IN PRC CONSTITUTION "ANYTHING IMPORTANT."

- MORATORIUM HAS BEEN DECLARED ON LOCAL MAGAZINES FOR ONE YEAR, ACCORDING TO REPORT IN UNITED DAILY NEWS. REPORT SAID GIO ANNOUNCED SUSPENSION FOR ONE YEAR OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALL NEW MAGAZINES. ACCORDING TO GIO RECORDS, REPORT SAID, AMONG 1,577 MAGAZINES WITH LICENSES LITTLE MORE THAN 100 FREQUENTLY SEEN ON NEWSSTANDS. DURING YEAR'S MORATORIUM EXISTING 1,577 WOULD BE SCREENED AND RECEIVE GUIDANCE FOR IMPROVEMENT, REPORT SAID.

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2. PROGRAM ACTIVITIES:

- USEF/C MOVE INTO USIS BUILDING NOW COMPLETE. FIRST BOARD MEETING FOLLOWED BY RECEPTION FOR GRANTEES HELD MARCH 22. MOVE BROUGHT FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS AND INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN USEF/C OPERATIONS. ACTUAL FLOOR SPACE NOT INCREASED APPRECIABLY, BUT NEW OFFICES PROVIDE MORE RATIONAL FLOOR LAYOUT. NEW LOCATION MORE CONVENIENT FOR BUS TRANSPORTATION, PROXIMITY TO SCHOOLS, AND HAS MORE PARKING.

- VTR ACTIVITY: 1) HALF DOZEN NOVELISTS AND CRITICS AND WIVES VIEWED RAVC-PRODUCED VIDEO INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN NOVELIST WILLIAM GASS AT DINNER ALSO ATTENDED BY PAO, CAO IN DPAO'S HOME. SHOWING FOLLOWED BY LIVELY DISCUSSION GASS' IDEAS AND RELEVANCE TO TAIWAN. DISCUSSION INITIATED BY WANG WEN-HSING, RECIPIENT LAST YEAR'S LECTURER/ CURRICULUM SPECIALIST GRANT AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA AND FLORIDA JUNIOR COLLEGE AND CONSIDERED ONE OF LEADING WRITERS OF "LITERATE NOVEL." WANG CLAIMED "AGREE WITH EVERYTHING GASS SAYS." AGREEMENT NOT UNIVERSAL AS SOME FELT AMERICAN EXPERIENCE AS ARTICULATED BY GASS HAD LITTLE PERTINENCE TO TODAY'S TAIWAN. NEVERTHELESS, VCR AND DISCUSSION STRONGLY SUPPORTED OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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OBJECTIVE FOUR WITH THIS IMPORTANT GROUP OF OPINION MOLDERS. 2) "ANATOMY OF A NEWSCAST" WAS SHOWN TO THIRTEEN TELEVISION NEWS DIRECTORS, PRODUCERS AND EDITORS FROM EACH OF THE THREE LOCAL STATIONS IN THE USIS STUDIO DURING A SANDWICH LUNCH HOSTED BY THE ACAO AND THE AIO (JOT). A FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR OF TV JOURNALISM, WHO FORMERLY WORKED FOR ABC, INTRODUCED THE VTR AND LED THE LIVELY DISCUSSION

AFTERWARD. 3) TAMKANG COLLEGE AND THE COLLEGE OF CHINESE CULTURE BEGAN WEEKLY VTR SHOWINGS THIS WEEK, AND HAVE WORKED OUT SEMESTER-LONG SCHEDULES WITH EMPHASIS AT TAMKANG MAINLY ON LITERATURE AND THE ARTS, AND EMPHASIS AT CCC ON AMERICAN SOCIAL PROCESSES AND GOVERNMENT. A FULBRIGHT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE ADMINISTERS THE PROGRAM AT TAMKANG, AND THE CHINESE HEAD OF SINO-AMERICAN STUDIES LEADS THE DISCUSSION AT CCC.

- U.S. TRADE CENTER'S "PACKAGING USA" VTR AND CATALOG SHOW WAS HELD AT USIS TAICHUNG FROM MARCH 16 THROUGH 18. IN CONJUNCTION WITH SHOW, BPAO ARRANGED RECEPTION HOSTED BY THE ECONOMIC COUNSELOR. SHOW GENERATED 137 REQUESTS FOR MORE PRODUCT INFORMATION. ADDITIONALLY, BPAO ARRANGED FOR ECONOMIC COUNSELOR TO SPEAK AT TUNGHAI UNIVERSITY ON "PROTECTIONISM."
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